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SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA REPORT

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INTER-AFRICAN AFFAIRS

EFFORTS TO CREATE OAU MILITARY FORCE REPORTED

Importance of Ideological Splits

Paris LE CONTINENT in French 1 Apr 81 p 2

[Article by Mohamed Maiga]

[Text] The seventh session of the OAU Defense Commission (Addis Ababa, 30 March-5 April) was held within a particularly favorable context. The African Continent has become the theater of increasingly harsh struggles for influence. It is even being said that the cold war has spread to Africa. Ethiopia, the seat of the Organization of African Unity, which hosted the meeting of the African defense ministers, is as closely tied to the "socialist bloc" as is possible. Around it, Somalia, Sudan and Egypt are on the way to becoming if not military bases at least strong points of the United States. The purpose of the current meeting in the Ethiopian capital is the creation of an African army, with a view to putting an end to any foreign presence.

The African defense ministers are meeting for the seventh session of the OAU Defense Commission, being held in Addis Ababa from 30 March to 5 April. However, the delegates of the Chad, the Central African Republic, Cape-Verde, Congo, Gambia, Gabon and Zimbabwe are absent. Since Ethiopia chaired the commission in 1980, at the beginning of these proceedings the Chair was given to Ghana; Kenya became vice-chairman while Sudan took over from Morocco the role of reporter.

The purpose of the meeting is the creation of a joint African force. Based on the study of experts, the African defense ministers will try to establish the juridical and political foundations for an OAU armed force. They will also examine the financial, military and legal aspects of the problem. The resulting recommendations will be submitted at the next summit meeting of the organization, which will be held in Nairobi, Kenya, from 23 to 26 June.

In its previous meetings the commission had faced obstacles which have still not been removed: membership in the African force, its structure, command, role in Africa, and the size of the contributions to be made by the member countries for the initial funding of the project, assessed at \$1 billion.

Difficult Consensus

So far, the creation of such a "superarmy" has been the victim of political divisions within the OAU, pitting "progressives" against "moderates." Its purpose was to enable the African states to make their contribution to liberation movements, to cooperate with the United Nations in its peace maintenance efforts, and to oppose "external aggressions" committed against members of the OAU. No consensus could be reached concerning these targets. The view commonly held was that the task of maintaining order in a member country is synonymous with repressing its legitimate aspirations. Furthermore, aid to "liberation movements" cannot be unanimously accepted in cases such as that of the POLISARIO Front. And also, what position would an African force adopt in a case of "foreign aggression" pitting one African country against another?

Furthermore, since the OAU army cannot be technologically independent, it was feared that it may be coveted by non-African powers, helped by the political sensitivities of the OAU members. Furthermore, at the opening of the conference, Haile Georgis Hapte Mariam, Ethiopian defense vice-minister, emphasized that the meeting was being held "at a critical moment in African history," because of the "support given to the Pretorian racist and terrorist regime by imperialist powers, the United States in particular," which, paradoxically, is gaining a foothold in Somalia and Sudan, at the Ethiopian borders.

Material and Financial Difficulties

In addition to material and financial difficulties, these were some of the contradictions which paralyzed the OAU activities during the Chad civil war. The reasons for this paralysis are more real today than in the past.

Africa and the Great Powers

Paris LE CONTINENT in French 1 Apr 81 p 2

[Article by M. Abtout]

[Text] The idea of an "African intervention force" was formulated by the French head of state during the fifth Franco-African summit meeting, held on 22 and 23 May 1978, i.e., some 10 days after the outbreak of the second conflict in Shaba. The original purpose of the summit meeting was a discussion of economic problems. However, the discussions were dominated by security problems. President Houphouet Boigny and Omar Bongo, who were the current chairmen of the OAU at that time, strongly supported Glacard d'Estaing's suggestion.

It was thus that the first African intervention force was created. It consisted of 1500 Moroccan, 600 Senegalese, 390 Central African, 110 Ivory Coast (most of them in the medical corps) and several hundred Togolese and Gabonese soldiers. The command personnel were French, the ordnance (airplanes and motor vehicles) came from Europe and the United States, while Saudi Arabia provided the financing. This force was short-lived. The contingents withdrew quite quickly from Zaire, with the exception of the Moroccan forces which stayed behind for a period of several months.

Unquestionably, the creators of this force had no illusions concerning its survival. They were aware of the fact that they were benefiting from an exceptionally favorable set of circumstances. At the outbreak of the second Shaba war, the so-called moderate African countries were still experiencing the shock caused by the intervention of Cuban forces in Angola, Mozambique and Ethiopia. The conflicts in the western Sahara, the Chad in particular, had aggravated the antagonism which affiliation with opposing alliances had created. The Western world firmly believed that the successes achieved by the new Soviet diplomacy throughout the world in general, and in Africa in particular, had to be stopped. That is why, ignoring the differences among France, Belgium and the FRG created by rivaling interests in Zaire, the representatives of the United States, France, Great Britain, the FRG and Belgium met on 5 June 1978 to coordinate their policies of economic and military aid to Mobutu.

The traditional policy based on the direct intervention of the armed forces of the former colonial powers was resumed after the conclusion of this brief experiment. Thus, France intervened on five different occasions in Africa between April 1978 and December 1980: In April 1978 the French Expeditionary Corps mounted the Tacaoud operation in Chad; in May 1978, Foreign Legion paratroopers landed in Kolwezi, which had fallen to General M'Bumba; in the autumn of 1978 French forces once again shelled the forces of the POLISARIO Front; on 20 September 1979 the same paratroopers intervened in Central Africa. Finally, in December 1980 Paris strengthened its military machinery in Africa (in Central Africa in particular) to block the intervention of Libyan forces in Chad.

The two superpowers showed no inclination to support the creation of an African "police" corps. The USSR, which has a firm military foothold in Africa, is continuing to operate with Cubans or East Germans as its intermediaries.

The United States, which considered France the representative of the Western powers, remained virtually absent from the continent for a long period of time. However, it reappeared with its Rapid Deployment Force.

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CNO: 3400/1064

MITTERRAND DISCUSSES FRANCE'S POLICY ON AFRICA

Paris LE CONTINENT in French 24 Apr 81 p 7

[Interview with Francois Mitterrand by LE CONTINENT; date and place not specified]

[Text] LE CONTINENT What is your estimation of France's African policy since Valery Giscard d'Estaing became president?

Mitterrand: Valery Giscard d'Estaing's 7-year term is ending in bankruptcy for Africa. The president now up for reelection claimed to be conducting a grand African policy by guaranteeing peace and stability and development assistance to the French-speaking countries in particular. The downfall of Ndjamena buried all political and military credibility as far as Giscard's France was concerned. The ACDA [expansion unknown] affair indicates that France is yielding the initiative to the United States in such vital areas as health and rural development. For the United States, Africa has become too serious a matter to be entrusted to Mr Giscard d'Estaing. I feel the same way.

LE CONTINENT: The 7-year term now ending was marked by French military interventions in Africa--Zaire, Chad, Mauritania and Central Africa--that were at times criticized in Africa. Do you think those interventions were justified?

Mitterrand: All those interventions signaled the failure of a policy. Any government that prides itself on its capability for military intervention and misuses it as consistently as Giscard d'Estaing's government does is actually a weak government of no consequence. French military interventions were simply salvage operations after a disaster. They were often hardly effective and even detrimental as a result of egregious and frequently outrageous political gaffes.

LE CONTINENT: The Soviet Union's African policy has been frequently taken to task ever since Cuba's 1975-1976 intervention in Angola. Now that Ronald Reagan has become President, the United States is reviewing its African policy in order to counter "Soviet expansionism." In your opinion, are the Soviets a threat to Africa? If so, what is the best way to confront it?

Mitterrand: Any prolonged and active presence of foreign military forces in an African country can be a legitimate source of concern, especially in a time of international tension. Africa is in great danger of becoming an arena in which the superpowers will square off with Africans in the middle. That must be avoided at all costs.

The incompetence and hypocrisy of too many Western statesmen have enabled the Soviets to root themselves in Africa. Defending Angola against South Africa and preventing the splintering of Ethiopia, were not unjust causes. At present the USSR has beefed up its forces and we do not approve of some of its interventions, in Eritrea especially. But if the threat of Soviet expansionism is to dwindle, France will have to take an active part in resolving broad conflicts, above all in southern Africa, in northwest Africa and in the Sudan-Sahel region.

LE CONTINENT: What would your policy for South Africa be? And how do you conceive a resolution of the Namibian conflict?

Mitterrand: Since experience proves the opposite, I refuse to admit that the cultivation of economic ties with Pretoria can help eliminate the white minority's oppression of the black and colored majority. Any new policy for South Africa has to entail two elements. First, economic sanctions against that regime. By that I mean a complete halt to public and parastatal investments by France and all assistance for private investments. Second, guaranteed development assistance for the frontline countries and political support for the liberation movements, including assistance in the social, economic and educational sectors.

SWAPO made a good number of concessions. Still, South Africa unilaterally and without real justification broke off negotiations begun in Geneva for Namibia's independence. Since that time there has been no word from the "contact group" of which France is a member. All the same, Zimbabwe's experience proves that peaceful solutions can be found. I plan actively to get the member countries of the "contact group" to resume their activities. If that does not work, France, in contact with the United Nations, will take new initiatives with all countries of good will.

LE CONTINENT: France's economic positions in Africa are growing worse daily. Yet French politicians keep on advocating a new international economic order, founded on the best use of each group's advantages: industrialized countries, capital-rich countries and developing countries. Under these circumstances what definite proposals do you plan to make that could meet the needs of France and of Africa concomitantly?

Mitterrand: Sure, French economic positions have worsened quite perceptibly in Africa. But the issues have to be distinguished. It is normal and healthy for independent countries to diversify their economic relations. I am firmly opposed to any system of special preserves, even if, on the other hand, I do believe in the force of the relations that history--colonial history included--has intertwined. Still, the contribution of France's economic forces to genuine development in Africa has grown blatantly inadequate. Our large businesses are more concerned with trade than with production. They link their operations too closely to eye-catching relations that are extremely profitable for themselves but that are often hardly productive and of little profit for Africa's populations. In the future the intervention of French businesses will, in as many instances as possible, have to be looked at for their medium and long-term prospects, determined by codevelopment contracts.

Then again it will be necessary to stimulate the operation of small and medium businesses whose size is often better adapted to local conditions. In general it

is my opinion that aid to the third world, and to Africa in particular, should become the concern of all of France's active forces. This includes the regions, municipalities, trade unions, occupational groupings, and beneficent associations.

LE CONTINENT: Some hundreds of thousands of African immigrant laborers have been called upon to leave France. The same fate seems to await others. As you see it, is some other immigration policy possible and desirable? What kind of policy?

Mitterrand: Your figures are somewhat exaggerated. I think that in this sector you are also turning the wishes of the candidate up for reelection into a reality. Quite obviously some other policy is to be desired. Equally certain, at the moment no resumption of immigration is possible in the prevailing economic situation. The only important exceptions are families coming to rejoin immigrants who are already established, students (as required), and political refugees. But those living in France should lead a secure life just like the other citizens of this country. For this reason I am fundamentally opposed to the Bonnet and Stoleru texts. Taken together they make for organized rejection. I am opposed also to an organized return that is taking systematic shape in the mouth of the candidate up for reelection. The return must be technically and financially aided if it is voluntary. It must never be imposed or suggested too strongly. Those who wish to remain in France should be given a 10-year residency permit that is automatically renewable. Never should a family be broken up. France must not forget that it owes much of its growth to immigrant labor. It is unworthy of her to cast them out in a period of world crisis.

CSO: 4400/1163

INDIA-AFRICAN AFFAIRS

AFRICAN-INDIAN RELATIONS EXAMINED

Paris LE CONTINENT in French 9 Apr 81 p 1

[Editorial article: "India and Africa"]

[Text] India's emergence as a regional power, in a world divided into three major economic blocs, is affirmed a bit more each day. The successive visits made to New Delhi by Arap Moi, the Kenyan head of state, by Sekou Touré from Guinea, or the one recently completed by Julius Nyerere, the Tanzanian president, were significant in this respect, even though discreetly made.

It is no paradox, to begin with, that India is now considered a model agricultural country. After the myth of China's food self-sufficiency was exposed, the astounding progress quietly achieved by India's agriculture must be acknowledged. Since 1975 India has been able to stockpile and even to export cereal crops, sugar and peanuts. Its success has been considerable, exports total 600,000 tons of wheat in 1977-1978, 950,000 tons in 1978-1979 and 1,000,000 tons in 1980. Higher yields per hectare, averaging a three percent annual increase, augur well for the future. Such accomplishments may be considered an example for the African countries which are experiencing worsening food supply difficulties.

The second reason is the following: All too frequently, we tend to forget that India is the biggest brain tank in the Third World. Thus, after the United States and the USSR, India has the biggest number of engineers. Scientific and technical skills of such cadres and their ability to apply their technology in developing countries, under conditions which are relatively more equitable compared with those offered by the West, is an opportunity which Africa seems to have finally discovered.

Naturally, Indian development is still influenced by its minimal contacts with foreign countries. Over the past two or three years, however, this trend seems to have been reversed. In May 1980 there were 107 industrial projects under way co-financed jointly by India and developing countries, 41 of them with African countries such as Nigeria, Kenya or Mauritius. The conditions governing these projects were appreciated by the host countries.

Directed by its purpose of achieving technological independence, Mrs. Indira Gandhi's country offers the advantage of its willingness to share its know-how. This is an unquestionable political weapon for Third World countries locked in opposition to the industrialized countries on the major question of technological transfers.

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CSO: 4400/1064

BACKGROUND ON RACE SITUATION PROVIDED

Salisbury THE HERALD in English 30 Apr 81 p 17

[Article by Henry Reuters: "Burundi--Where a Black Minority Rules"]

[Text]

DEJUMBURA (Burundi).

HOW does a ruling minority retain control of an African country in which it is outnumbered by at least five to one and in which it dare not talk seriously about democracy, lest it be swamped by the masses. Its standards lowered, its way of life destroyed and its people massacred, or chased away?

The South African Prime Minister Mr P. W. Botha is not the only politician seeking an answer to this question. Colonel Jean Baptiste Bagaza, military ruler of the republic of Burundi, which was once described as "a non-state with a vote in the U.N.", finds himself in a similar position.

But Colonel Bagaza's tactics in the battle to retain minority control of this lush and fertile 27 834 sq km of lakes and mountains differ vastly from Mr Botha's.

Being a black man leading a black minority in a black country, he benefits from the double standards of world opinion. In the OAU and similar circles he is more likely to receive bouquets than brickbats.

PRECARIOUS

His future, however, and that of his fellow, ruling Watutsi elite — 15 percent of Burundi's 4 million population compared with the 84 percent Bahutu majority — is equally precarious.

The tall, aristocratic Watutsi, who claim to be descendants of the guard of King Solomon's mines, came down to what is now Burundi in the 17th century, and conquered it.

They used the stunted Bahutu, who had settled there some 700 years earlier, as menials, serfs, slaves and farm labourers.

As did the Boers and British in South Africa, the Watutsi clan in Burundi fought among themselves. But all took the land and employed Bahutu labour to develop it.

Watutsi and Bahutu both emulated South Africans' treatment of the bushmen in their dealings with the country's original inhabitants, the Twa pygmy people, who were

chased into the densest forests and virtual extinction.

The wind of change in Africa began blowing strongly on the Watutsi overlords at the same time that it blustered into South Africa.

FUN-LOVING

Colonialist Belgium pulled out of its then U.N. Trust Territory of Ruanda-Urundi on July 1 1962 and the territory was split into the twin states of Rwanda and Burundi.

In the northern half, Rwanda, the Bahutu won pre-independence elections. A Hutu President, Gregoire Kayibanda, ruled until deposed in a 1973 military coup by present President, Juvenal Habyarimana, also a Hutu.

In Burundi, the Watutsi got themselves into power, with fun-loving Mwami (king) Mwambutsa IV heading a constitutional monarchy.

Four years of administrative chaos later, his nightly twisting sessions with his French secretary at the local nightclub ended when he was overthrown by his 19-year-old son, Prince Charles.

The prince lasted only four months before he was overthrown in a military coup led by Cap-

tain Michel Micombero in November, 1966.

Micombero lasted ten years before being ousted in another military coup, led by Colonel Bagaza. Captain Micombero fled the country.

Meanwhile, things had been happening in Burundi which would make allegations of South African whites' mistreatment of blacks pale into insignificance. In 1972 the ruling Watutsi sought a simple solution to the problem posed by the Bahutu majority — kill them.

They embarked on a wholesale massacre. One day it was "Kill all the Bahutu who wear glasses, because they have hurt their eyes learning to read and must therefore be educated."

Another, it was "kill all those whose houses have iron roofs because they must be the rich Bahutu elite..."

There were many such days, until virtually all the educated Bahutu were wiped out.

By the end of 1973 the death toll was being put at more than 250 000, while a further 100 000 Bahutu had fled to Tanzania, where many of them still remain.

But it didn't solve the Watutsi's problem.

Colonel Bagaza is now attempting a more refined solution of a kind which could not differ more widely from Mr. Botha's. In short, it is to ban as "racist" all talk of tribes; to encourage inter-breeding between the Watutsi and Bahutu; to preach reconciliation; and to develop a "united" political party, denounced by the Watutsi, which is happy to talk about the virtues of democracy for 25 hours a day, so long as it does not actually have to move very far towards it.

To be fair, Colonel Bagaza's Government has made some progress in the democratic direction in the past five years. The 19-member Cabinet now includes four Bahutu.

RIVALRY

But Watutsi officers continue to control the 8,000-man army, which is being trained by rival French and Soviet Union military missions, and Watutsi bishops continue to control the church.

A year ago Colonel Bagaza promised a "significant move towards democracy" within a year. Burundi is still awaiting an indication of its nature.

Paradoxically, Colonel Bagaza's approach to the democracy business is, at

least for the present, working. This 33-year-old informal ruler is held in high esteem both in his own country and in the OAU.

All Burundians admit that Colonel Bagaza has brought stability, preached moderation, and kept the lid on corruption and that by taking long drives in a Land-Rover into the rural areas at weekends he has built himself a reputation as "a man of the people".

He maintains close ties with neighbouring Tanzania, even to the extent of cramming national radio services with programmes in Tanzania-style Swahili and having the names of leftwing leaders prefixed with the word "Ndugu" (Swahili for brother).

SMUGGLING

He also hosts a Cuban mission and tends to support Eastern bloc countries in U.N. voting.

To round off his international position he accepts United States aid to the value of about U.S \$60 million a year.

In a display of enterprise Colonel Bagaza has also attempted to ease his struggling economy, by allowing the capital, Bujumbura, to become perhaps Africa's largest gold, diamond and ivory smuggling transit centre.

Burundi has no gold or diamonds, and for that matter, no elephants, but the Government makes a useful income from taxing all these commodities, as they pass through, by lake or boat or air.

"It is commerce", shrugged one Government Minister. "There are things about which you just don't ask questions."

Questions are what Colonel Bagaza fears the most. But such questions concern other matters. And so far he has been able to keep the most serious ones at bay.
— Herald Africa News Service.

STRONG REACTION NOTED TO BONGO'S FRENCH ELECTION REMARKS

Importance of Elections

Libreville L'UNION in French 24 Apr 81 p 1

[Editorial by Albert Yangari: "It Concerns Us All"]

[Text] How many complaints! How they have reproached us our analyses on the French elections! We have been accused of taking sides, of leaning toward this or that candidate. They have complained to us about our interfering in the domestic affairs of France...

We are somewhat surprised by the widely scattered reaction to our having attributed exceptional importance to the French elections. But is anyone unaware of the close ties in all fields which unite us with France? Isn't it common knowledge that the price of bread rises in Libreville when the price of wheat goes up in Paris?

Hundreds of our young countrymen are studying in France and will eventually return someday to participate in Gabon's development. Moreover, tens of thousands of Frenchmen have lived among us for decades and--willingly or not--reinforce the ties woven between our two countries, contributing to the progress of our two homelands.

Our alliance with France is more than a century and a half old. Our grandfathers fought on the side of the French in 1914; our fathers sacrificed themselves during the Second World War for the honor and survival of France. Is it surprising, then, that an old friend should take a passionate interest in the critical moments lived by his old partner?

Let it be understood quite clearly: Next Sunday, Frenchmen will go to the polls to elect their president. Of course, we have no advice to give them on a "good choice," just as we consistently made it our policy throughout the electoral campaign. However, within the framework of the interdependence between France and Africa, and particularly between Gabon and France, we have clearly expressed to all the candidates vying for the highest post in the land that we Gabonese are truly interested, no matter who turns out to be the Frenchmen's choice!

AFF Correspondent's Libreville Dispatch

Libreville L'UNION in French 24 Apr 81 p 1

[Text] Sources close to the presidency of the Republic indicate that a certain French press is tending to give credence to the idea that Gabon and its chief of state reportedly expressed a preference for this or that candidate in the French presidential elections.

These same circles affirm, however, that the Gabonese president has repeatedly clarified his position since the beginning of the campaign, notably in the L'UNION newspaper on 3 April 1981.

Thus it is that the Gabonese head of state declared that he did not wish to interfere in the French electoral campaign, but that he deplored the absence of Africa among the stated concerns of the candidates.

In these same circles close to the presidency, where it is freely admitted that France is still Gabon's privileged partner, where President Bongo's faithfulness toward his friends is warmly stressed and where it is acknowledged that all the organs of the press and the media showed total impartiality throughout the campaign, surprise is expressed about tendentious interpretations of the Gabonese leader's quite clear position for electoral ends.

CSO: 4400/1164

INAUGURATION OF FIRST SOLAR ENERGY VILLAGE

Libreville L'UNION in French 10 Mar 81 pp 1, 4

[Article by Mualabu Mussamba: "Let Us Explore Different Energy Potentials"]

[Excerpts] The first solar energy village in Gabon was inaugurated by Etienne-Guy Mouvanga, second vice-prime minister, representing Omar Bongo, the chief of state, in Akok yesterday.

"The Akok solar power station is an operation within the framework of the government's rural development policy," said Joachim Mintsa, who represented the secretary general of the PDG (Gabonese Democratic Party), who described the policy as a tool whose purpose is "to meet community needs of rural people, both in terms of hygiene and health as well as education and information."

Marc Cosse, the second speaker, stipulated that this first accomplishment will be used mainly as a point of reference for the future uses of solar energy in Gabon. Akok, the director general of Elf Gabon stated, has now a community system which operates on the basis of solar energy. It consists of a 60-meter well equipped with a solar power pump with a 20,000-liter debit capacity in a storage reservoir, which meets the requirements for drinking water of the entire population in the rainy and dry seasons; an outpatient clinic with a big refrigeration area for the storage of vaccines, three sources of electric power and two fans, which will make the work of the medical personnel easier and will improve the quality of health care and the comfort of the patients; and a system of street lights. This initial equipment, Marc Cosse pointed out, is fed by a solar power generator consisting of 104 photovoltaic panels covering a 30-square-meter surface, with an installed generating power of 2,200 tons. Some 10 lead batteries make possible the storage of part of the generated electricity and thus insure the independent functioning of the outpatient clinic for a 10-day sunless period.

The Akok school, whose classrooms have been equipped with electric lighting, also draws on solar power. This will also enable the teachers to use slides.

Finally, there is a newly built section with a solar powered television set used for community and teaching purposes. The television set is located in a partitioning wall and can be rotated by the teachers according to the required educational programs.

It is worth noting that the photovoltaic generators are totally silent; there is virtually no required maintenance, and the functioning of the facilities is independent, for they require no fuel.

Edouard-Alexis N'Bouy-Boutzit, minister of state, stated that this was not a spectacular achievement, considering the scale of the infrastructures, but that, nevertheless, this did not diminish its importance.

All countries, he said, are facing the consequences of the inevitable exhaustion of petroleum supplies, including today's petroleum producers, one of which is Gabon. Even though our country is still far from being short, we consider it necessary to explore the potential of a variety of new energy sources.

5157

CSO: 4400/ 990

MANIOC-INTO-FUEL: REAL STROKE OF LUCK

Libreville L'UNION in French 24 Apr 81 p 1

[Article by Makaya]

[Text] I, Makaya, have the impression that manioc will become a miraculous product. For us, here, it is our basic food, prepared in a thousand ways and laced with all kinds of sauces.

A foreign newspaper is telling me now that manioc will be used to produce fuel. We in this part of the world use the starch in manioc to starch shirt collars and the crease in our trousers. Germans and Brazilians would like to rescue it to gasify it...and get fuel out of it.

After sugar cane and brush, here comes manioc. The green gold is developing at a fantastic rate, and manioc is really interesting because it demands so little: it grows everywhere, even in poor soil.

Here is a piece of news that would delight all my brothers in the village, who do not know yet all the advantages of prosperity. I do hope that this technique will be perfected soon and that we will adopt it as well.

Everybody to growing manioc! This may well become the new slogan. We will then witness human waves leaving the cities, a true city exodus for a return to the land!

A tuber that could be useful...

CSO: 4400/1164

DISPARITY BETWEEN NATIONAL, EXPATRIATE SALARIES PROTESTED

Libreville L'UNION in French 18 Apr 81 p 1

[Article by Makaya]

[Text] Last week my colleagues at the office and I vociferously asked for a raise. Fish, vegetables and manioc are indefatigably rising despite their officially set price, which tends to disappear as soon as the inspector has turned his back.

Meanwhile, the boss is earning more and more; his income is multiplying just like someone was multiplying loaves of bread on Lake Tiberias. He relies on his expense account to eat free of charge, he moves around in an office car, he lives in a house provided by his company and his travels are financed by yearly tickets.

Expatriates' salaries should be reviewed one of these days to bring them more into line with the money we good Gabonese workers are paid: because even if we keep living on the index of African prices and our expatriate friends on that of European ones, we will never be able to catch up with them.

A real dog's life!

CSO: 4400/1164

REVIEW OF FRENCH COOPERATION, NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN

Lome 1A NOUVELLE MARCHE in French 19 Mar 81 p 5

[NAB report: "Development of Cooperation Between France and Guinea-Bissau"]

[Text] France is paying "privileged attention" to the development of its cooperation with Guinea-Bissau, and the work of the commission, which met in Paris between 3 and 5 March, is proof, if such is required, of the interest with which the Ministry of Cooperation views the development of its relations with African Portuguese-speaking countries.

Cultural, scientific, technical and economic cooperation agreements were initialed between the two countries on 20 January 1977, or slightly more than three years after Guinea-Bissau acquired its independence in September 1973.

The substantial increase in French aid to Guinea-Bissau was noted in 1980: grants by the FAC (Aid and Cooperation Fund) totaled 13.7 million francs; loans granted by the Central Bank for Economic Cooperation totaled 8.4 million francs.

Development of Peanut Production

The FAC supplies most of the aid granted by the Ministry of Cooperation. Such FAC grants have been specially tailored to the financial situation of Guinea-Bissau, which is, unfortunately, still showing a deficit.

Most of the FAC efforts were focused on the development of peanut production, this being the main export product and source of foreign exchange.

Peanut growing, which was neglected during the war of liberation, resumed after independence, and exports rose from 8,900 tons in 1976 to 22,200 tons in 1979, 70 to 75 percent of which come from the central regions (Oio, Bafata, Gabu). Starting in 1977 the FAC has been financing in this area an operation for the increased production of seed peanuts, which affects some 400,000 rural residents and covers 60 percent of the country's area.

Improved quality seeds are being used on an area of 4,000 hectares, with an annual output of the 3,000 tons. This meets the needs of the entire country. Furthermore, farming training operations are underway among the peasants with a view to improving their cultivation techniques for the utilization and treatment of selected seeds, planting density and proper times of planting, and use of chemical fertilizers and of animal-drawn plows; 750 plows have been distributed.

A part of these operations was already underway, sponsored jointly with the FED (European Development Fund), which is financing in the same area the development of cotton growing, combined with rice and peanuts. Henceforth, the two operations will be combined and carried out on the basis of an integrated regional development program which will cover crop growing, animal husbandry, reforestation and the technical training of the farmers and the elimination of illiteracy. The program should result in raising output to 47,000 tons of peanuts, 52,000 tons of cereal crops and 9,000 tons of cotton.

Development of Hydrogeological Resources

Nine French specialists from the BDPA (Agricultural Products Development Bureau), the IRHO (Oils and Oleaginous Crops Research Institute) and the IEMVT (Institute for Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Medicine in Tropical Countries) are participating in this project, which is considered as the best development operation so far implemented in Guinea-Bissau.

Between 1977 and 1980 the FAC has granted 9 million francs for the operation.

Again within the rural development program the FAC is participating in the development of the country's hydrogeological resources. Following the well digging campaign of 1977, in 1981 activities will be focused on supplying potable water to the Bijagos Islands. These 16 small islands, inhabited by 14,000 people, are having major water supply problems.

Also in 1981 the FAC will finance a 140-million CFA francs program to take stock of the water resources throughout the country, suitable for the building of irrigation dams. A general hydraulic management plan will be formulated, covering the big valleys (Rio Geba, Rio Corubal, Rio Cumbija), in which irrigation projects could be developed following the construction of big dams, in the small valleys, where small dams could be built, and the low Bolanhas areas, whose saline soil could be reclaimed for rice growing after the completion of the necessary projects (dikes, canals, anti-salinization dams, etc).

As a result of better management of water resources and development of irrigated farming, Guinea-Bissau could have stabler agricultural output, particularly in the growing of rice, which is in very short supply considering the population requirements....

Since 1977, every year France has granted aid to Guinea-Bissau in the form of flour and corn deliveries.

Phosphate, Bauxite and, Perhaps, Petroleum

In the mining sector the development plan calls for the division of the country into four zones of specific geological interest. French cooperation has been requested for the geological study of the northeastern part of the country. The FAC grants allocated between 1977 and 1980 made the charting of geological maps possible; the BRGM (Geological and Mining Research Bureau) conducted prospecting operations on an area of 7,000 square km.

The exploration for phosphates was also assigned to the BRGM (in 1981 the FAC will grant a 3-million-franc subsidy). Good quality phosphate deposits have been discovered in the Farim area, and their potential is being assessed currently.

A bauxite deposit was found by the Soviets in the Boe area, estimated at 200,000 tons. The construction of an aluminum plant is already under consideration.

Such survey operations will be given a new boost as a result of IDA (branch of the World Bank) financing of offshore prospecting on the Guinea-Bissau continental shelf. It is a question of determining the quality and volume of discovered petroleum deposits in order to determine its eventual profitability. Such studies may be assigned to a British company which will be given the data previously acquired by French, Portuguese and American companies.

A Car Assembly Plant

Industrial activities remain very modest: according to some estimates they do not exceed 3 percent of the gross national product.

According to official data, in 1978 there were 188 industrial companies employing a total of 1,833 people, or under 1 percent of the active population.

Most of these small enterprises process farm products. They include peanut and rice shelling plants, a cotton ginning mill, oil extraction plants, a beer and lemonade plant, fruit juice plants, rum distilleries, sewing mills, marquetry-goods factories, and a dairy plant.

A state-owned car assembly plant was opened in Bissau. It assembles 2 CV Citroen cars of the FAF (Easy to Make) model.

An ambitious food industry project is being implemented in Cumere. Its purpose will be to recover the added value from the local processing of agricultural produce. The Cumere complex will consist of a peanut shelling plant with a capacity for 70,000 tons of peanuts and a rice hulling plant (50,000 tons), a flour mill (19,000 tons), an oil extraction plant (20,000 tons of unrefined oil), a soap-making factory and a livestock feed factory.

The cost of the project is assessed at \$20 million. The infrastructures will be financed from Arab funds (Islamic Development Bank, Saudi Arabia and OPEC Fund). France will pay for technical aid (provided by the CFDT-IDET-CEGOS French group) for start-up and personnel training.

Foreign Aid

Foreign aid, which is used to finance a certain percentage of current expenditures and all unplanned expenditures, plays an important role in the Guinean economy. In four years, from 1974 through 1977, grants and loans received by the country were in excess of 4 billion pesos, or the equivalent of its annual gross national product. The main lenders between 1974 and 1977 were the following: the USSR, 20 percent; Sweden, 17 percent; Portugal, 14 percent; the Netherlands, 11 percents; and the United Nations, 8 percent. The anticipated percentages for 1978-1981 put Sweden at the head, followed by the United Nations Development Program, Portugal, the Netherlands and the European Development Fund.

This has resulted in a considerable increase in the country's foreign indebtedness. It has been estimated that loan servicing in 1980 accounted for 30 percent of the value of exports.

As we know, Guinea-Bissau has an area of 36,125 square km and a population of 600,000.

3157

CSO: 4400/990

PUBLICATION OF NEW ISLAMIC JOURNAL

Abidjan FRATERNITE MATIN in French 28 Apr 81 p 19

[Text] The Moslem youth, whose dynamic attitude is much appreciated, is adding to its already significant image by founding its own press organ, the ALLAHU AKBAR journal.

This journal will appear quarterly. Its aim, according to Fofana Youssoufou, is to propose to the people of our times, foundering in the wake of changes in systems of thought and values, the "Islamic language, which is a language of certainty." According to the same article by Fofana Youssoufou, OUR OBJECTIVES, it will foster human relations within a society, develop a better understanding of Islam, give advice on timely Moslem questions and incite Moslems to improve the practice of their religion. This is why ALLAHU AKBAR is also called, in a way better understood by the unaware, THE VOICE OF ISLAM.

The first issue has already appeared, printed by the Societe Ivoirienne d'Imprimerie and published by the Williamsville Islamic Center.

The editorial was written by our colleague Ladjil Sidibe, editor-in-chief of the journal. He also provides some reasons why Moslem youth felt it had to found this journal, writing notably that THE VOICE OF ISLAM "proposes to remind men and women of this country of the message of the prophets...a message of peace, tolerance and love."

THE VOICE OF ISLAM has a circulation of 5,000, and its founding team considers it a wager for the future. "To win it," Ladjil Sidibe notes, "we are counting on the good will of all the members of the Moslem community in the Ivory Coast."

CSO: 4400/1164

CHEAPOO CLAIMS NO PRESS CENSORSHIP

Monrovia NEW LIBERIAN in English 24 Apr 81 pp 1,6

[Article by Blamo Robinson]

[Text] The Government of the People's Redemption Council has no intention of imposing censorship on the Liberian press, Justice Minister Chea Cheapoo said Thursday.

He said in this revolutionary Liberia, the PRC Government expects journalists to be factual and objective in their reports. But he warned that if a newspaper failed to present balanced reports to the public, "it would die a natural death."

The Minister was addressing members of the Chamber of Commerce Thursday at their monthly luncheon meeting at the Ducor Hotel.

Cheapoo regretted that 'certain individuals have abused the right to the free transfer and dissemination of information; misguided', referring to such abuse as freedom of the press."

He said "it must be understood that the right to freely express opinions is not absolute," noting that "freedom of the press, therefore must be exercised in respect of limitations imposed by law."

Touching on the crime and the protection of lives and property, the Minister recalled that when the PRC Government came to power a year ago, many people misunderstood the philosophy of the new government.

He referred to the upsurge of vandalism and other kinds of criminal activities during that period, which included theft, destruction of property, illegal importation of narcotic drugs and murder.

He said as a measure to bring the situation under control, government has created a Special Court to try theft and related offenses and narcotic drugs; rather than leaving the criminals untried, granting them bail only to get back in the street with their criminal acts.

The Justice Minister made it clear that government was committed not to leave any stone unturned in combating the increase of crime in our society.

he said "we simply cannot afford a society in which criminals are tolerated while lives and property remain at their mercy."

On confiscation of assets, he emphasized that the fundamental principle underlining the policies of the PRC Government is to bring justice to the Liberian people.

"When I speak about justice, I am referring also to economic justice. That is the material condition under which the masses of our people live. There is no need to emphasize how deplorable their conditions have been," he told the gathering.

"The absence of modern roads in this country, the high rate of illiteracy, the poor housing conditions, the high unemployment rate, and the lack of adequate health facilities are self-evident," Cheapoo stressed.

He said "notwithstanding these conditions, a very few people lived a luxurious life. These were the very people entrusted with powers to administer the affairs of government."

He continued: "We understand that in a free society, acquisition of wealth through earnest [as published] labour is a part of the liberty that everyone enjoys.

"However, in the past, officials of government violated the trust bestowed upon them. They engaged in deceit, fraud and outright conversion of public properties to enrich themselves and their families. This was simply unjust enrichment," he explained.

"Thus, the PRC Government has the moral obligation to reacquire some of these illegally held properties in the interest of obtaining economic justice for the Liberian people by confiscation," the Minister declared.

On business and the economy, Cheapoo assured the business executive that government was committed to the creation of a good business climate in the interest of economic growth and development in Liberia.

CSU: 4420

FRG RESCHEDULES EXTERNAL DEBT

Monrovia NEW LIBERIAN in English 23 Apr 81 pp 1,6

[Text] A bilateral agreement to reschedule part of Liberia's external debt with the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany was signed by the two governments at the Finance Ministry here Wednesday.

Under the terms of the agreement, the Liberian Government would now repay a consolidated amount of about \$4 million at the rate of three per cent annually in nine years.

The \$4 million was originally scheduled to be paid by Liberia against debt servicing to West Germany between July last year and December this year.

The German Ambassador to Liberia, Mr Thomas Troemel, signed for this government, while Finance Minister George K. Dunye signed for the Liberian Government.

The agreement, however, further provided a four-year grace period during which time 10 per cent of the consolidated amount would be paid in four equal installments.

Wednesday's agreement was a result of the visit to Paris, France in December last year by a Liberian delegation, headed by former Finance Minister, Major Perry Zulu for a meeting with international creditors to reschedule Liberia's external debts in the wake of its financial crisis.

At the Paris' meeting, Liberia's creditors agreed on General terms to be followed by bilateral agreements. The German Government has now become the first to respond positively to the General terms agreed on at the Paris meeting.

At the ceremony Wednesday, Finance Minister George K. Dunye expressed gratitude to the German Government for its continued interests in and assistance to the Liberian Government during the period of its economic reconstruction.

He said government would continue to maintain relations with nations that show interest in the economic recovery of Liberia.

For his part, Ambassador Troemel said the German Government was impressed with efforts the Liberian Government was making to revive the country's economy.

ANTI-CORRUPTION CHIEF REQUESTS ARREST POWER

Monrovia NEW LIBERIAN in English 30 Apr 81 p 3

[Article by J. N. Elliott]

[Text] The Acting Director General of the National Force for the Eradication of Corruption has called on government to empower her Bureau with the powers of arrest.

Speaking in an interview with the NEW LIBERIAN Wednesday, she said government should issue a decree empowering the NFEC Bureau with the powers of arrest.

Acting Director Nelson said the NFEC Bureau handles cases involving counterfeiting, illegal dismissal, bribery, receiving and selling stolen goods, and illegal imprisonment, which are at times confused with the CID and Labor cases.

"The Justice Ministry being the legal arm of the government should define the acts of crimes that the Bureau is by law supposed to probe and investigate," she stressed.

"Since the acts of crimes have not been defined and the Bureau has no authority over arrest, it seem as though the Bureau is ineffective and should therefore be dissolved with all its responsibilities being delegated to other agencies with such powers," she said.

The Acting Director also proposed that government should revise the Executive Orders which created the Bureau in order to minimize the burden created on the Head of State in rendering disposition of all cases transmitted to his office by the Bureau.

The NFEC statistical data revealed that 67 cases were handled between 1980-81 as compared to 58 in 1979.

Because of the lack of equipment and logistics, the Bureau's effectiveness in uprooting corruption have diminished, the report said.

The report also stressed the need for additional manpower in order to establish regional offices throughout the country.

NATION FACES STUDENT EXPLOSION

Monrovia NEW LIBERIAN in English 27 Apr 81 pp 1,6

[Article by J. H. Cassell]

[Text] The nation's school population is swelling, and currently there are about 296,000 students in public and private schools throughout Liberia.

According to a Ministry of Education's statistical projection, the figure reflects a six percent increase over last year's enrollment of 279,107.

With the current surge of about 17,000 new students this year, the Ministry's projection also indicates an annual teacher's growth rate of nine percent. Currently there about 9,644 teachers in nearly 1,700 schools nationwide.

This shows a growth of 545 teachers as compared to the 1980 figure of 9,099.

As a means of resolving the multiple financial toll, his Ministry would encounter in providing commensurate facilities for the nation's growing students' population. Education Minister Dr. H. Boima Fahnbulleh, Jr., recommended in his Ministry's 1980 annual report, that 30 percent of the national budget be appropriated for education.

Noting that the higher institutions of learning in which some of the high school graduates will matriculate also need to be expanded, the Minister said these institutions must be given adequate financial resources in order to upgrade their standard, improve their productive capacity, and turn out graduates with the orientation, dedication and ability for national development.

Statistician Emmanuel Waiah of the Ministry of Education's South-western Region said despite its financial shortcoming, the Liberian Government was progressively meeting up with class-room facilities for students.

Exemplary of her commitment to accommodating the students surge was the 536 units which the government built during the period of 1977 to 1978, he said.

He said however, that there were no reliable statistics to confirm the number of schools in the country, adding, "in 1979 we had 1,536 and 1,651 in 1980." The current number, he said, could be estimated as 1,700.

Collecting statistics has its share of problems too, Mr Waiah said, "in Montserrado County most school owners refuse to report their schools annually. So it is hard to determine the exact number of schools in this county."

He said while other counties were up to date in reporting their statistics, the school owners in Montserrado bury their whenever they are sent statistics forms. [as published]

The Ministry of Education's statistics program precludes the University of Liberia, Cuttington University College and all Technical and Vocational schools.

CSO: 4420

RELEASED PRISONERS MAY FACE ECONOMIC PROBE

Monrovia NEW LIBERIAN in English 24 Apr 81 p 1

[Article by Sam Johnson]

[Text] Former officials of the Tolbert regime given political amnesty may answer for their alleged economic crimes against the people, according to a letter from the PRC to the Chairman of the Reacquisition Commission, Brigadier-General Thomas Quiwonkpa.

The Council, responding to enquiries by the Reacquisition Commission concerning the properties of former politicians, said it was the consensus that "former officials of government held for political and economic reasons who were released from further detention and cleared of political charges undergo an economic investigation."

The PRC position letter states that "where it becomes necessary on charges, and found guilty, the individual's property should be confiscated."

With reference to investigating ex-officials of government who were not arrested but are probably tainted by corrupt practices of the past, the Council said matters relating to the confiscation of the properties of former government officials shall be investigated by the Ministry of Justice.

The Justice Ministry will forward its findings from such investigations to the Reacquisition Commission which after careful scrutiny shall submit its findings and recommendation to the Council for decision, the policy letter spells out.

With regards to joint ownership of properties to be confiscated by husband and wife, only a fourth of such properties shall be given the wife for her sustenance, it was stated.

Before the granting of amnesty, detainees were liable to have their properties confiscated if found guilty.

The PRC has officially confiscated so far the real and personal properties of 34 individuals. Properties confiscated include that of the late William Tolbert; 13 former government officials trial immediately after the April 12 coup, found guilty and executed; and the 20 ex-officials who fled the country and failed to respond to a PRC notice for their return to answer charges against them.

CSO: 4420

LIBERIA

ALIEN WORK PERMITS ARE TEMPORARILY FROZEN

Monrovia NEW LIBERIAN in English 27 Apr 81 p 3

[Text] The Labour Ministry has reacted to allegations that it has placed a permanent freeze on alien work permits in the country.

In a recent public service announcement, the Ministry announced a temporary freeze on the issuance of work permit to aliens.

In a Labour Ministry release issued Saturday Labour Minister G. Moses Duopo described the allegation as false and unfounded.

Minister Duopo explained that the temporary freeze exercise was being undertaken to enable his ministry enquire from the various employing authorities, those areas where Liberians could be absorbed.

Minister Duopo said the exercise was also aimed at promoting the "Liberianization Policy," which, he observed, was only a "camouflage and mockery" during the past administration.

The labor Minister said even though the temporary freeze was being effected, major companies like Lamco, the Bong Mines, the National Iron Ore Company (NIOC) and the Firestone Plantations Company had been given clearance to recruit expatriates in the "highly sensitive areas of their operational plant."

Meanwhile, Labour Minister, G. Moses Duopo leaves here today at the head of a two-man delegation for a week-long official visit to West Germany.

While in West Germany, the delegation, including the Assistant Minister of Labour for Human Resource Development, Mr Nyudeh Nornorkonmana, would participate in the board of directors meetings of the Bong Mining Company (BMC) scheduled in Cologne this week.

The delegation would also hold discussions with representatives of leading steel and metal industry in West Germany.

Minister Duopo is also expected to visit United States of America before returning home.

While Minister Duopo is away, Assistant Labour Minister for Administration, Col. Joseph P. Sharpe will act as Minister.

BRIEFS

APPOINTMENT OF DEPUTY MINISTERS--With the advice and consent of the PRC, Head of State M/Sgt. Samuel K. Doe, has appointed two new government officials. Those appointed were Mrs Veronica M. Deagor, Deputy Minister of State for Economic Affairs, succeeding Mr Charles H. Toe, who now takes over a new post as Deputy Minister for Technical Services at the Ministry of Action for Development and Progress (ADP). Before her appointment, Mrs Deagor who holds an MBA Degree in Management and Finance from the Prairie View A and M University in Texas, United States of America, served as a Statistical Assistant at the Ministry of Planning and Economic Affairs. Head of State Doe urged the two officials to justify the confidence reposed in them by PRC and to be motivated in all endeavours to defend the interest of the Liberian people. [Excerpt] [Monrovia NEW LIBERIAN in English 1 May 81 p 1]

DIAMOND MINE PROJECT--Government is to establish a diamond mining project if experiments now going on in the Bomi Territory proves fruitful, Head of State Doe said Monday. The Head of State, who was visiting the \$100,000 government financed diamond experimental project in Sakie Town, Bomi Territory, said over 3,000 persons would be employed if the project is established. He however expressed satisfaction over the progress of the experimental project, and promised each worker 50 per cent of gravel he digs. Earlier, the foreman of the workers, Mr Moses Garwo, complained that misunderstanding between workers and government officials on wage structure was delaying the project. The workers have however promised that once the Head of State had clarified the situation, they would strive to ensure that the experiment becomes successful. Mr Garwo also appealed to government to supply them with more water pumps to enhance the smooth operation of the project. The government diamond mining project started in March this year under the supervision of the Minister of Public Works, Henriqui Brooks and Deputy Lands and Mines Minister, Joseph Richards. [Text] [Monrovia NEW LIBERIAN in English 21 Apr 81 p 1]

CSO: 4420

SHAGARI GIVES ASSURANCE ON MONEY FOR ABUJA

Kaduna NEW NIGERIAN in English 9 Apr 81 pp 1, 17

[Article by Ibrahim Ahmed Biu]

[Text]

PRESIDENT Shehu Shagari has assured that all the financial obligations of the Federal Capital Development Authority (FCDA) would be met promptly by the Federal Government.

This, he said, was necessary to enable the authority to implement all major projects contained in the first phase of its programme to ensure a hitch-free transfer of the seat of his administration to Abuja next year.

The president gave this assurance at Abuja last Tuesday, while speaking shortly before he laid the foundation stone of the ultra modern Presidential Complex at the new federal capital. The project is located in the North-West District of the Federal Capital Territory (FCT).

He said that it was in pursuance of this objective that the sum of 600 million Naira was proposed to the National Assembly for the authority's services this fiscal year.

He said that the authority should not hesitate to request

for more financial aid whenever the need arose and that such a request would surely receive a sympathetic attention from the Federal Government.

Alhaji Shehu Shagari announced that he had already taken a number of decisions on the report submitted by the ad-hoc committee under the chairmanship of Senator Ahmadu D. Rufai.

He said he would soon appoint an administrator who would effectively take charge of the responsibility of administering the territory.

President Shagari also said that he has directed that no individual within the capital territory whose land had been acquired for the building of the new capital should be forced to take a decision against his will. He said that it has been made clear that those who wish to remain within the territory could do so while those who prefer to resettle outside could do so and would be given

adequate financial assistance and compensation.

He then commended officials of the Federal Capital Development Authority for their hardwork and dedication to duty and disclosed that he was impressed with the level of work achieved on the building of the new capital.

President Shehu Shagari was received, on arrival at the Abuja airstrip amidst thunderous welcome, by the Niger State Governor, Alhaji Muhammadu Awwal Ibrahim, Mr. John Jatau Kadiya, Minister in charge of the Federal Capital Territory, Dr. Wahab Dosunmu, Minister of Housing, Presidential Liaison Officer in Niger State, Alhaji Muhammadu King, traditional rulers and other government officials.

SHAGARI OPTIMISTIC ON STEEL PLANTS' FUTURE

Kaduna NEW NIGERIAN in English 17 Apr 81 pp 1, 29

[Article by Mike Reis]

[Excerpts]

NIGERIA will soon take an enviable position among the steel producing nations within the next four years, President Shehu Shagari, has assured.

To this end, the Federal Government is making concerted efforts to make our steel projects both efficient and viable.

Speaking while laying the foundation stone of the 85 million Naira Katsina Steel

Rolling Mill yesterday, President Shehu Shagari said the question of material supply and product distribution which were important factors in project viability and product pricing were engaging the attention of his administration.

He said it was crucial that the steel plants in the country be provided with the necessary off-shore facilities, a transportation network and the right climate for their success.

President Shagari said the question of adequate power supply to the plants was being tackled, adding that some permanent solutions would be found before the plants were commissioned.

He said his administration was considering converting the Katsina Rolling Mill into a mini-steel plant capable of producing its own billets from local scrap which would reduce its dependence on billets from warri.

A feasibility study, he said, has been commissioned to explore the possibility of this venture.

President Shagari noted that with the commissioning of the rolling mill next year, significant increase would be made in economic activities in Katsina, adding that it was in anticipation of this that he directed the upgrading of the Katsina Airstrip.

The president was optimistic that the steel projects in the country would take off on schedule. He said reports from Aladja, Osoyo, Jos and Ajaokuta steel projects were very encouraging.

In his speech the Minister of Steel, Malam Ali Makele, has reassured the nation that the Ajaokuta Steel Complex would start producing steel billets by 1985.

OYO STATE IMPOSES CURFEW IN RIOT ZONES

Kaduna NEW NIGERIAN in English 17 Apr 81 pp 1, 21

[Text]

OYO State Government has waded into the violent disturbances in Oranmiyan Central Local Government with a curfew order between the hours of 8 p.m. to 6 a.m. daily.

The government order has also banned all public meetings within the area for 14 days.

The state Governor, Chief Bola Ige, who issued the directive on a special TV/radio broadcast also announced the setting up of a judicial commission of enquiry to investigate the crisis.

The panel is to be headed by Mr. Justice O. Ibidapo-Obe. Others are Mr. M.S. Adigun and Mr. T. Adeniran, while Mr. L.O. Dada is the secretary.

Terms of reference of the panel include investigating causes of the violence and the role of various local leaders in the area shortly before and after the riot.

It would probe the role of the police before the escalation of the crisis and seek solution to the protracted conflict between the people of Modakeke and Ife as well as advise Oyo State

Government on what it saw in the area.

The governor who said that the panel must submit its report before May 14th, this year, confirmed that some people had been killed and properties destroyed in the fracas.

He put the blame on the statement made by those he called "certain political forces who ought to have known in advance by virtue of their official posts that such statements made by them at recent political rallies were capable of causing incitement."

The governor was apparently referring to a political rally organised by the Modakeke wing of the National Party of Nigeria

CSO: 4420/1013

NEW HIGH-YIELD VARIETY TO BOOST PEANUT PRODUCTION

Kaduna NEW NIGERIAN in English 11 Apr 81 p 20

[Article by Leke Salau]

[Text]

GROUNDNUT will soon regain its past glory as one of the major food and cash crops in the country.

As a measure to rehabilitate large scale production of the crop, a new variety with high yield that was found suitable for Sudan areas has been discovered and distributed to farmers in groundnut producing zones of the country.

Delivering a lecture at the First National Agric Show in Kaduna yesterday, the acting Governor of Kano State, Alhaji Abdu Dawakin Tofa, said the new variety was called S61.

He said that by adopting the new variety last year, there were surplus groundnuts in the northern parts of the country for consumption and exportation this year compared with the previous years.

Alhaji Abdu said if good variety of groundnut seeds were properly managed, it would make high yields and enable farmers to make maximum profit.

Speaking on the assistance being rendered by the Kano State Government to groundnut farmers, Alhaji Abdu who is also the state Commissioner for Agriculture, said the seeds of the new variety, chemicals for disease control and fertilisers were given

to farmers on agreement that they would pay back with groundnut.

The farmers, he said, did not regret going into agreement because they had bumper harvest last year.

According to Alhaji Abdu, groundnut production had become enterprising in Kano and other producing areas.

He said that the country was able to export about 600,000 tonnes of groundnut in 1970/71, which later dropped to 300,000 tonnes in the following year as a result of the drought.

Alhaji Abdu commended the Federal Government for giving agriculture top priority and urged both the federal and state governments to give necessary incentives to farmers to boost agricultural production in the country.

He, however, suggested the setting up of a groundnut research institute to carry out research on alternative use of the crops.

The Minister of Agriculture, Alhaji Ibrahim Gusau, said the Federal Government was determined to resuscitate production of groundnut in large scale.

To this end, a sum of 5.5 million Naira, he said, had been earmarked for the procurement of groundnut seeds this fiscal year.

Alhaji Ibrahim also disclosed that a sum of 21 million Naira had been set aside for the purchase of commercial groundnut while one million Naira would be spent on purchase of chemicals to fight groundnut diseases this financial year.

Another report from Kano said the Acting Governor of the state, Alhaji Abdu Dawakin Tofa, has assured that the groundnut pyramids which had started rising again in the state have come to stay.

He said the state government would do everything possible to sustain its production by readily making available fertilisers and improved seedlings to farmers.

Speaking while receiving a team of army officers from the Command and Staff College, Jaji in Kaduna State, at Government House on Thursday, Alhaji Abdu said the state government had taken various steps since assuming office to boost groundnut production in the state.

Among these measures, he noted, were the abolition of poll tax and a stop put to the seizure of lands from poor farmers by rich and corrupt members of the society.

Alhaji Abdu listed a number of factors which led to the decline of

groundnut production in the State which included rising population with the attendant increase in demand for food crops and the drought which affected the state, at one time or another

Alhaji Abdu also revealed that stores for the storage of different types of agricultural inputs would be built in all parts of the state to give food and cash crops a remarkable boost.

CSO: 4420/1013

BRIEFS

ITALY RELEASES SOME STUDENTS--Twenty-four of the 30 students arrested in Rome following the furore they allegedly created at the Nigerian Embassy in January, this year, have been released by the Italian authorities. This was announced in a statement in Lagos by the Ministry of External Affairs. The statement added that those released would be allowed to continue to reside in Italy, while the remaining six students who were still being detained were alleged to have attacked an Italian security agent following their arrest. While expressing its appreciation to the Italian Government for its intervention in the matter, the ministry said, it was "pressing that the remaining six students who are still detained should be released." Giving the events that culminated in the arrest of the students, the ministry disclosed that the Bendel State Government conveyed approval some time in August, 1980, to the Nigerian Embassy in Rome for payment of bursary award to 68 students of the state origin studying in various parts of Italy. It pointed out that the number of beneficiaries was reduced to 37 after the publication of the first list through another letter sent to the embassy in October, 1980. According to the Ministry of External Affairs, "those students whose names were on the first published list but had their names deleted from the second one along with their sympathisers trooped to the embassy and in the process of registering their protest resorted to violence." [Text] [Kaduna NEW NIGERIAN in English 10 Apr 81 p 3]

RUBBER PRODUCTION FOSTERED--Rubber produced in Nigeria is highly competitive in the world market, the Minister of State in the Ministry of Agriculture, Chief Olu Awotesu, has disclosed. Commenting on a lecture titled "Timber and Rubber Development in Nigeria", delivered by Governor Ambrose Alli of Bendel State, the minister particularly mentioned that London markets preferred Nigerian rubber to others. Chief Awotesu who was the chairman of the occasion, however, said that Nigeria had not been producing rubber in the required quantities. In order to rejuvenate the production of rubber in the country, he said, the Federal Government had embarked on massive input in form of incentives to rubber farmers. According to him, 100,000 tapping knives and one million latex rubber cups were purchased and distributed to the farmers free of charge. He said that the Nigerian Rubber Board paid 795 Naira for a tonne of rubber excluding transportation as against 600 Naira paid at the world market. Chief Awotesu said 100,000 hectares of land would be cleared and rehabilitated for the production of rubber this financial year. [By Leke Salau] [Excerpt] [Kaduna NEW NIGERIAN in English 10 Apr 81 p 24]

BUDGET PASSED BY ASSEMBLY--The 1981 budget has been passed by the National Assembly with some amendments. The passage followed the reconciliation of the differences in the budget as passed in both the House of Representatives and the Senate by the National Assembly Joint Conference Committee on Finance and Appropriation. Details of the final figures in the budget as passed by the Assembly were not immediately available as officials of the assembly were still calculating them. There were, however, indications that there was considerable increase in the votes over those proposed by the executive. The executive made a proposal of more than 11 billion Naira in the budget. The budget proposals were submitted to the National Assembly by President Shahu Shagari in November last year. Among the major amendments effected by the Assembly in the budget are the approval of an additional estimate of 25 million Naira for the activities of research institutes throughout the country and 35 million Naira to the National Youth Service Corps [NYSC]. The Assembly also voted 50 million Naira to aid educationally disadvantaged areas and 20 million Naira for combating environmental sanitation problems in Lagos. The Assembly also approved an estimate of 117.3 million Naira for itself. [Text] [Kaduna NEW NIGERIAN in English 15 Apr 81 p 7]

ACTING POLICE INSPECTOR GENERAL--Assistant Inspector-General of Police, Mr. Sunday Adewusi, was yesterday appointed acting Inspector-General of Police to replace the incumbent, Malam Adamu Suleman. The appointment made by President Shahu Shagari was announced in a press statement by the Executive Office of the President. It said by the appointment, Malam Adamu had now reverted to his substantive post of Deputy Inspector-General of Police. Mr. Adewusi's appointment took effect from yesterday. According to the statement, it was made after due consultation with the Police Service Commission as required by sections 195(1) and 196(2) of the country's constitution. [Text] [Kaduna NEW NIGERIAN in English 16 Apr 81 p 1]

OIL REFINERY EXPANSION--The House of Representatives has approved N169,884m. for the Nigeria National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC), for expansion work on the country's three refineries. This was one of the recommendations of the House Committee on Petroleum and Energy, headed by Dr. J. Taribo Sekibo. The committee recommended that Warri Refinery be allocated N50,850m. to enable it to increase its capacity by 20 per cent so as to reduce the country's demand for finished petroleum products. The Kaduna Refinery, commissioned last year, got an allocation of N688,432m. for similar purposes. Also, the NNPC will be required to spend some money to build satellite projects such as the Escravos Warri pipeline phase II project for transmitting crude oil to the refinery. The oldest refinery at Port Harcourt was allocated N630,585m. for maintenance. The committee also drew the attention of the House to the NNPC's inability to execute the phase II project of the Port Harcourt Refinery by some N60m. was approved for the NNPC last year for additional refinery capacity in Port Harcourt, to be ready by late 1983 or beginning of 1984. The aim was to increase Nigeria's refinery capacity to 200,000 barrels a day to meet local requirements in the years up to 1987. Out of the N60m. approved for the project then, the NNPC has spent only N300,000. The committee condemned the "poor performance" of the NNPC. A nominal appropriation of N24,820m. for 1981 was, however, approved for the project. [Text] [London WEST AFRICA in English 20 Apr 81 p 896]

ABUJA 27 SEPTEMBER 1982--President Shugu Shagari has said that he will be resident in Nigeria's new Federal Capital of Abuja from September 7, 1982. During a recent half-day visit to the new capital (presently under construction), the President pledged "steady and uninterrupted flow of funds" for the new capital. The Executive Office of the President would be first to move into the new capital, he said, adding, "Abuja would serve as a vehicle for forging national unity and integration because every Nigerian will be made to feel at home at the centre of their government." He said that a deliberate policy of integration is already being evolved in the allocation of lots to all interested Nigerians. "No state will be allowed to dominate any other state." He appealed to all religious bodies in the country to mobilise their followers to build national outlooking mosques and cathedrals in Abuja in the spirit of oneness and harmony. In his speech, the Minister of the Federal Capital Development Authority, Mr. J. J. Kadiya, said that about N160m. had been spent on the provision of infrastructural facilities in the territory. [Text] [London WEST AFRICA in English 20 Apr 81 p 1016]

(S) 4439/1012

TWO-TERMIST MAKES PROGRESS REPORT ON TUE IN OFFICE

Paris LE MONDE in French 8 Apr 81 p 4

[Article by Pierre Bismuth: "The Chief of State is implementing his intentions for liberalization and opening")

[Text] lower. "I shall remain loyal but will also be a promoter of change." Repeating almost word for word the key sentence of his 1 January induction speech, President Abdou Diouf used the celebration of the 21st anniversary of Senegal's independence, held on Saturday 4 April, to draw up the balance of his first three months as the Head of State, and to define his intentions, thus proving that change aside way in his policies.

Unimpaired until that point the prototype of the big bureaucrat, the new president displayed his unquestionable qualities of a statesman, thus earning the support of a large majority. His trip to the important Sine-Saloum area last February, whose young governor he had been some twenty years ago, was a success. The headquarters of the main opposition groups are either quite dumbfounded, as is the case with the Senegalese Democratic Party (PDS), headed by Abdoulaye Wade, or clearly interested, as is the National Democratic Rally (RND), headed by Professor Sheikh Antane Diop.

Diouf has two main targets: to strengthen the system bearing in mind the legislative and presidential elections to be held in February 1983, and to take Senegal out of a rather difficult economic and financial situation. "Opening" is, more than ever, the key word of his policy. In the second half of the last decade, by gradually converting Senegal from a one-party system to a limited but constitutional multi-party system, Mr. Senghor had shown the way. Nevertheless, when he resigned, most of the politically minded people were outside the legal parties and, particularly, outside a governmental system threatened with sclerosis. In fact, only four parties could claim to have a specific ideology: the conservatives (Boubacar Diagne's Senegalese Republican Movement), the liberals (Abdoulaye Wade's Senegalese Democratic Party), the social democrats (Abdou Diouf's and Senghor's Socialist Party) and the Marxists (Majhemouth Diop's African Independence Party) have organized themselves as parties so far. On the other hand, the ruling Socialist Party has largely remained in the hands of the "barons."

The Strengthening of Internal Democracy

Therefore, it is a question both of removing all restrictions preventing a multi-party system and of renovating governmental cadres so that they may face increased competition better. Diouf confirmed that a draft bill which will legitimize all parties will be submitted to the National Assembly Bureau at the opening of the Parliamentary session on 15 April. The National Assembly has no choice but to pass it. On the other hand, at the 29 March meeting of the Socialist Party National Council, whose Secretary General he is, the Chief of State expressed his intention of strengthening democracy within the Socialist Party by opposing "drops, corruption, opportunism and influence peddling."

The "general education meeting" held at the end of January for the purpose of formulating new guidelines gave the Single Democratic Union of Senegalese Teachers (UDSS), which had previously been a member of the opposition, the opportunity to play a leading role. This has made it clear that a more radically nationalistic era, compared with the past, had begun. Henceforth the authorities will be expecting numerous unification movements by leftist elements. On a parallel basis, a certain number of personalities who, rightly or wrongly, have been considered too involved in business matters, would be removed from their positions.

Should this be the case, Diouf should expect no major crisis in the two remaining years before the 1981 election which he could win.

The Agricultural Debacle

We could also use this political respite to pursue efforts launched more than one year ago with a view to re-establishing order in the area of public finances and to repair the economic situation. The latter is noted by a breakdown of agricultural production, peanut growing in particular, something which affects virtually all other sectors. Less than 100,000 tons of unshelled peanuts, or 10 times less than in an average year, will have been delivered for processing by the oil extraction plants at the end of the harvest, something which had not occurred since the end of the nineteenth century.

Apart from the appreciable effect of the drought, this agricultural debacle may be essentially traced to a profound feeling of discouragement felt by the peasants who have been subjected for too long to an excessive land tax by the system's leadership, operating under the cover of a socialist regime which claimed to be democratic but which had rapidly turned into a bureaucracy. As early as last August, when he was only the prime minister, Diouf had been able to ensure the dismantling of the essential apparatus of this exploitation by making his predecessor give down the National Development Corporation Office (ONCAD),

The cooperatives have been given the right to market their own products. Last Saturday, new producer purchase price increases and the cancelling of all the debts in kind lent for the purchase of seeds, fertilizer, and fungicides were announced.

While waiting for an upsurge in its agricultural production, Senegal continues to rely on its traditional allies, mostly France and the moderate Arab countries. Nevertheless, on 4 April President Diouf announced his intention "to widen the circle of such friendships and alliances."

This diplomatic "opening" seems to be addressed especially to countries such as Algeria, with which until recently Senegal had "frozen" its relations and, perhaps Angola as well. Dakar is one of the last African capital cities which have not as yet recognized the Angolan regime.

1057

QID: 1400/1056

TOGO

BRIEFS

EYADEMA RECEIVES KAMPUCHEAN DELEGATION--A Democratic Kampuchean delegation yesterday held talks with the head of state, Gen Eyadema. The delegation which was led by Mrs Ieng Thirith, minister of social affairs of Democratic Kampuchea, came to express to the Togolese people "the friendship of the Democratic Kampuchean people fighting against the Vietnamese oppressors", to quote the leader of the delegation. [Text] [AB060941 Lome Domestic Service in French 0615 GMT 6 May 81]

CSO: 4400/1166

BACKGROUND ON NGUZA KARL-I-BOND'S DEPARTURE

Nairobi THE WEEKLY REVIEW in English 24 Apr 81 pp 15, 16

[Text]

THERE seems to be no end to surprises from Zaire — and it has had quite a number during the past four years. Even close watchers of the country's political goings-on had few clues as to the fact that Mr. Nguza Karl-I-Bond, appointed prime minister only last August was about to walk out on President Mobutu Sese Seko. But he did walk out at the end of last week, catching Mobutu himself un-awares.

Nguza had reportedly gone to Brussels on a private visit, ostensibly to be with his wife who was undergoing a medical operation. From Brussels, he reportedly wrote to Mobutu informing him he was resigning from the premiership and other positions in the ruling MPR (Movement for Popular Revolution) party because he wanted to retire from public service. Officials in Zaire's Brussels embassy said Nguza was resigning for personal reasons and would quit political life. But Mobutu was apparently quite bitter.

Whether Mobutu tried to communicate directly with Nguza after receiving his letter is not clear. But the official Zaire news agency *Azap*'s reaction seemed to indicate that Mobutu felt cheated, and was uncertain of Nguza's ultimate intentions. *Azap* called the resignation an act of cowardice. Referring to him as "the former deserting prime minister", the agency said his action was "marked with growing cowardice".

and added: "Nobody will regret Nguza, to the contrary". It said the MPR's central committee had learned "this cowardly desertion from Mobutu himself with strong and deep indignation." Concluded *Azap*: "Only those who are giving asylum to this type of fellows are being fooled."

The implication of *Azap*'s violent outburst, seems to be that Nguza quit office to join Mobutu's opponents, a number of whom live in Brussels. Mobutu might have done some simple arithmetic and concluded that there was bad faith involved. If Nguza was simply trying to retire from public life, he would have talked to Mobutu and would then possibly have been allowed return to private life in Zaire. That Nguza had to go into self-imposed exile could only mean that he felt Mobutu might read the wrong motives into his retirement and go for his neck, which came close to the guillotine another time when Mobutu suspected his sympathies lay elsewhere.

The relationship between Mobutu and Nguza has blown hot and cold during the past four years. Nguza had risen to be one of Mobutu's closest and most trusted aides when, while foreign minister in 1977, he suddenly fell foul of the autocratic president, who accused him of treachery. The charge arose out of the invasion of Zaire's mineral-rich Shaba Province by the Angolan-based remnants of the former Katangese gendarmes. Nguza comes from Shaba. Soon after the coup,

Mobutu arrested Nguza claiming that he had foreknowledge of the invasion during a trip abroad, but that he had not informed the government so it could prepare for it. Nguza was put on trial and condemned to death on the charge of high treason. The death sentence was later commuted to that of life imprisonment, reportedly after the intervention of Mobutu's western backers and ten months into the sentence, Nguza was freed.

In March 1979 Mobutu restored Nguza to his post of foreign minister, a move that surprised many. Apparently Mobutu had decided that forgiveness must be exercised in full measure. Nguza seemed grateful to be reinstated to his former position and appeared ready to continue serving Mobutu without any sign of bitterness. This relationship appears to have worked well, with Mobutu elevating Nguza to the position of premier in a surprise reshuffle last August.

The question now is what went wrong during the eight months Nguza was premier? Even as foreign minister he had known of the mess in which the Zairean economy was, the high degree of maladministration and the widespread corruption of Mobutu and the rest of the ruling elite. Could it be that he had a closer look at the situation and decided that the prospects were so bad he had to make his exit while his own image was not yet deeply tainted? The answers may emerge in the near future when he has settled down and is ready to embark on his next move. Observers had for long tipped him as the only man who had emerged as an alternative to Mobutu, though he lacks the military support that is Mobutu's constituency. Even Mobutu would be quite uncom-

fortable having him at the head of the opposition, which has given him a rather tough time even when fragmented and without much support in western capitals. Nguza would make a lot of difference to the image of the opposition if he decided to join it. And that is what seems to be troubling Mobutu.

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